

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 04721 091704Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4904
INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO

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USEEC

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PDEV PGOV PINT GL DA
SUBJ: NEW POLITICAL PARTY IN GREENLAND

REF: COPENHAGEN A-56

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE "SIUMUT" (MENAS
"FORWARD" IN GREENLANDIC) MOVEMENT BECAME A FULL-
FLEDGED POLITICAL PARTY AT A MEETING HELD IN JULIANEHAAB,
GREENLAND ON JULY 30-31. THE PARTY ELECTED JONATHAN
MOTZFELDT (THE DPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE GREENLAND
PROVINCIAL COUNCIL) AS ITS CHAIRMAN. THE NEWSPAPERS
POINT OUT THAT THE PARTY, WHICH IS THE THIRD TO
HAVE SURFACED IN GREENLAND OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS,
APPEARS TO BE MORE VIABLE THAN ITS PREDECESSORS.

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2. COMMENT: ONE OF THE TWO PRESENT FOLKETING
MEMBERS FROM GREENLAND, LARS EMIL JOHANSEN, IS A
MEMBER OF THE NEWLY-FORMED PARTY. JOHANSEN, WHO
HAS BEEN IN PARLIAMENT SINCE DECEMBER 1973, PRE-
VIOUSLY SAT WITH THE SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY
(INDEPENDENT COMMUNIST) GROUP. NOW THAT THE SIUMUT

MOVEMENT HAS BECOME A PARTY, PRESUMABLY HE WILL SEEK
SEPARATE IDENTITY AS SIUMUT'S SINGLE PARLIAMENTARIAN.

3. EXACTLY WHAT SIUMUT STANDS FOR IS NOT YET
CLEAR. IN THE PAST, IT HAS TAKEN RELATIVELY RADICAL
POSITIONS ON GREENLAND'S FUTURE RELATIONSHIP
WITH METROPOLITAN DENMARK AND SPECIFICALLY ON THE
RIGHTS OF THE GREENLANDERS THEMSELVES (TO THE
EXCLUSION OF THE DANISH STATE) TO THE ISLAND'S
MINERAL RESOURCES. LATELY, HOWEVER, SIUMUT REPRE-
SENTATIVES APPEAR TO HAVE MOVED TO A MORE CONCILIATORY STAND
VIS-A-VIS THE DANISH GOVERNMENT POSITION. SIUMUT
AND THE MAJORITY OF THE GREENLAND POPULATION HAVE
TRADITIONALLY OPPOSED GREENLAND'S MEMBERSHIP, VIA
DENMARK, IN THE EC.

4. THE OTHER PRINCIPAL VEHICLE FOR POLITICAL
EXPRESSION IN GREENLAND IS THE MORE CONSERVATIVE
ATASSUT MOVEMENT WHICH HAS NOT YET CONSTITUTED
ITSELF AS A POLITICAL PARTY. THE OTHER PARLIA-
MENTARY MEMBER FROM GREENLAND, OTTO STEENHOLDT,
IS A MEMBER OF ATTASSUT AND SITS WITH THE
LIBERAL PARTY IN PARLIAMENT.
DEAN

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